SIXTH DAY—*13th October 1927.*

The House re-assembled at 12 noon.

Questions and Answers.

MR. N. SIDDALINGAPPA SETTY (Chikmagalur Taluk), MR. MANJE GOWDA and MR. DYAVAPPA GOWDA (Mudgere Taluk).—

Q.—21. Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) Whether Government did not hold out hopes to the people of the Kadur District that they would give Railway connection between Kadur and Chikmagalur ?

(2) On what basis did the Government legislate and sanction the levy of Railway Cess?

(3) (*a*) Did they not direct that the Kadur District people should pay the Railway Cess for a period of 25 years, and (*b*) is it not a fact that this cess is being levied now?

(4) Has not the accumulated cess now amounted to about 6½ to 7 lakhs of rupees?

(5) In spite of the fact that the cess has been levied and that there is every likelihood of its continuing to be levied for another 25 years, have not Government decided that it is not possible to undertake the work at present on account of want of funds and also of the fact that it is not a paying concern?

(6) Did not Government notify last year that a survey of the alternative routes—Kadur to Chikmagalur *via* Sakrepatna and another *via* Kalasapur would be undertaken, and that earthwork would be commenced within 4 months after deciding which route would be profitable and convenient ?

(7) Who is responsible for the charges incurred for the re-survey?

(8) Will not the construction of the above Railway line open up and improve the *malnad* in various ways and be consistent with the policy of the Government to better the conditions in the *malnad* parts?

(9) In view of the above circumstances, do Government reconsider the question and undertake the work as per their original promise and in view of the fact that the people are prepared to pay the Railway Cess for another 25 years?

(10) If the Railway work is to be abandoned, will the levy of the cess be stopped?

GENERAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.—

A.—21. (1) A proposal to construct a Railway between these places was under consideration for several years.

(2) The question is not clear. G.O. No. L. 1844-900—L.B. 63-26-1, dated 9th September 1926, in the matter of the construction of Railways and the levy of Railway Cess is, however, placed on the table for information. (Appendix IX.)

(3) (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(4) Yes.

(5) The line has been abandoned as financially impossible.

(6) Yes.

(7) The re-survey was carried out as per G.O. No. R.S. 2253-58—Ry. F. 62-G. 25-26, dated 26th June 1926, providing a sum of Rs. 15,000 in the Budget for 1926-27 for the purpose.

(8) Yes. But financial considerations have to be kept in view.

(9) Traffic prospects of the line do not justify the construction of the line at a cost of about Rs. 30 lakhs.

(10) There is no intention at present of abandoning Railway work in the district.

Supplementary Questions and Answers.

Mr. Siddalinga Setty.—

Had not the Government agreed to lay out the Kadur-Chickmagalur line?

Third Member of Council.—

Government thought that it would be possible; but recent enquiries have proved that the line will not be remunerative as there is not enough traffic.

Mr. Siddalinga Setty.—

Will not the answer to item 3 be inconsistent with the reply given in the previous session?

Third Member of Council.—

When the order of 1926 was passed, the question of the sufficiency of traffic was not fully considered. The line had not been fully surveyed then.

Mr. Dyavappa Gowda.—

If so, why not abolish the cess?

Third Member of Council.—

But there is no intention of abandoning railway work in the district altogether. The matter is still under consideration.

Mr. Dyavappa Gowda.—

Now that the line has been surveyed and the traffic possibilities ascertained to be not encouraging, why should not the cess be discontinued?

Third Member of Council.—

The District Board seems to have definite views about the utilization of the cess amounts. That matter is closely connected with the continuance or otherwise of the cess.

Mr. Bagamane Dyavegowda.—

But how long is the cess to be levied?

Third Member of Council.—

At present the levy is for a period of 25 years.

Mr. Dyavappa Gowda.—

But why should the levy continue any longer when the line proposed is considered to be unremunerative?

Third Member of Council.—

The question of laying out at least some other line in the district is under consideration. In this connection there is a proposal from the Mangalore District Board to connect

Mangalore with Mudigere *via* Charmadi Ghat. If it materializes the question will then be considered.

Mr. T. S. Subba Rao.—

Was not the route connecting Chickmagalur and Hassan surveyed?

Third Member of Council.—

The prospects of that route also have been investigated.

Mr. T. S. Subba Rao.—

Was not the project prepared some time ago?

Third Member of Council.—

Yes, but the traffic prospects were very poor.

Another Member.—

Is not the Kadur-Chickmagalur line better than the other route, from the point of view of income?.

Third Member of Council.—

It is too early to say anything now.

Mr. K. T. Seshaiya.—

In case you cannot lay the line why not abolish the cess now alone?

Third Member of Council.—

We cannot say anything now.

Mr. K. T. Seshaiya.—

Then how will the amount be utilized?

Third Member of Council.—

That will have to be considered later.

First Member of Council.—

I may tell you that if the Railway Cess is to be abandoned, legislation will have to be brought in to authorize the District Board to use it for other purposes; and that is a far away question.

Mr. K. T. Seshaiya.—

But that will be a breach of faith. You collected the cess on the assurance that we would be given a railway.

First Member of Council.—

In the hope, not assurance.

Mr. K. T. Seshaiya.—

But when we agreed to the levy, we thought that all details had been settled.

Dewan.—

The money collected will not be taken away by Government. It will be used for the purposes of the District Board only.

Mr. C. Subba Rao.—

If the District Board resolves that the cess collections should be returned to the people, can it not be done?

Third Member of Council.—

By all means.

Mr. Siddalinga Setty.—

Is there any assurance that Mangalore will also take connection if we agreed to the Kadur-Chickmagalur line?

Third Member of Council.—

It has not yet reached that stage. The matter is still under correspondence.

Another Member.—

May I know if the line from Hassan *via* Belur and Chickmagalur will be re-surveyed and the possibilities of traffic reconsidered in the light of lapse of time, after the last survey ?

Third Member of Council.—

The traffic prospects were surveyed only last year. I do not think there will be such material change so soon.

Mr. Nadig Bhaskara Rao.—

Till a railway line is laid out, will Government at least arrange for bus traffic?

Third Member of Council.—

There is already enough motor traffic.

Mr. K. T. Seshaiya.—

If the District Board wants to stop the levy of the cess will there be any objection?

Third Member of Council.—

Let the Board discuss the matter and pass a resolution to that effect. Government will then consider the question.

Mr. Siddalinga Setty.—

With reference to the reply to item 10, what is meant by "at present" ?

Third Member of Council.—

The matter will have to be reconsidered when conditions change.

MR. B. P. BASAPPA SETTY (Chickmagalur Taluk).—

Q.—22. Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) In how many taluks has the preliminary survey of *malaria* and *hook worm* disease been completed? What are their names?

(2) What are the remedial measures suggested by the higher officers of the Sanitary Department as a result of the survey already conducted in the *malnad* taluks?

(3) Have any beneficial results accrued to the *malnad* by the adoption of these suggestions and measures?

(4) If not, what action is being taken to put them into practice?

(5) If no action has yet been taken, when will it be taken?

(6) What is the cost for one year of the Reserve Sanitary Inspector and the establishment detailed for this survey work?